

## ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

**Date:** 17th March 2014 **Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Place:** Ashmansworth Village Hall  
**Present:** Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)  
**Councillors:** Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Andrew Bays  
**In Attendance:** Maxta Thomas (Clerk)  
**Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Wheeler

#### *Action*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

**3. Planning**

**a) Update on previous applications**

Steeles Farm – no formal decision as yet. Cllr Cox stated that the delay is due to the solicitors having lost the deeds of the farm. A copy has now been found, which should allow the legal matters to be resolved by the end of this week.

Hallam – no formal decision as yet.

Plough Cottage – refused on grounds of highway safety.

**b) Further applications received – None.**

**4. Local Roads**

**a) A343 Issues** – Cllr Cox updated the Council. He continues to chase the relevant authorities. Cllr Tom Thacker has agreed to chase HCC Highways.

**b) Ditch Clearance at Crux Easton** – this may be covered by the Lengthsman. However, this is now not a major problem, so no further action.

**c) Potholes/Road Repairs** – various potholes in the Parish have been repaired without the need for chasing. Situation to be monitored.

**5. Telephones/Broadband**

Cllr Cox updated the Council. Glenn Peacey of HCC reports that Highclere are due to get superfast broadband between August and December this year. Ashmansworth are not due to get it until 2017. Glenn has suggested that Ashmansworth PC meet with BT Openreach if interested in a private local solution.

Discussion was held about joining with other small parishes for a local solution. It was felt that private financing may be available from residents in the Parish. Other options were discussed, and will be explored further later in the year.

It was agreed that Cllr Cox should discuss options with Glenn Peacey and possibly set up a meeting with BT Openreach.

**Cllr Cox**

**6. Neighbourhood Watch**

Monthly reports and urgent feedback are now being received from PCSO Abbey Carpenter.

Cllr Black noted that cold callers have been spotted in the area, and that they are the same people mentioned recently by Countrywatch. Cllr Black

**Cllr Black**

to pass details to PCSO Carpenter.

## 7. Council Business

### a) Clerk's report

- Cllr Mitchell has reported that the BDBC Local Plan is likely to be out for consultation in the April-June period. He notes that the plan will refer to Conservation Areas, but that any review for Ashmansworth is likely to be a long time away. He also noted that East Woodhay PC have a team looking at a Neighbourhood Plan, St Mary Bourne PC has scheduled a public exhibition of their Neighbourhood Plan project for the evening of 28 March, and that Highclere PC have a fast moving project leading towards a Community Right to Build scheme for the former council house estates at Penwood.
- Cllr Mitchell has confirmed that he is standing down as a Borough Councillor at the next elections this year. Cllr Cox noted Cllr Mitchell's assistance and depth of knowledge that he has applied to Ashmansworth PC over the years, and asked the Clerk to send a formal letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.
- A Paths to Partnership conference is to be held in June by HCC. This conference is aimed at parishes who manage countryside access and rights of way. Cllr Cox plans to attend.
- Community Infrastructure Levy – Cllr Bays has put together a response to this consultation, but not in time for the closing date for responses. The Clerk sent the response anyway, but has heard nothing in reply.

**Clerk**

**Cllr Cox**

b) Parish Council Elections – the Clerk updated the Council. Nomination packs have now been sent out to all Parish Clerks, who will have passed these on to their councillors and other interested parties. The pack includes a Nomination Paper, and a Candidate's Consent to Nomination form, as well as accompanying notes and various other forms. The nomination and candidate's consent must be returned by hand to BDBC by no later than 4.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> April. It is strongly recommended that all candidates submit their paperwork earlier than this, so that any problems can be addressed. The formal notice of election will be published by 14<sup>th</sup> April – this will appear on local noticeboards and on the website, and the clerk believes this will also be published in the local press. She is awaiting confirmation of this from BDBC, together with the format for the official notice. Finally, there is a meeting at BDBC on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 5.30pm for all Clerks and prospective candidates to discuss the organisation of the elections. All those interested in attending need to contact Wayne Dash at BDBC. The Clerk will be attending, and will pass on any relevant details to interested parties.

**Clerk**

c) Crux Easton Phone Box – Cllr O'Shaughnessy stated that a piece of steel needs to be affixed to the plate to fix the hole – this can be sourced locally. It also needs repainting, which may be a specialist job. This will need to be investigated. Cllr O'Shaughnessy to obtain quotes and report back to council.

**Cllr O'  
Shaughnessy**

d) War Memorial tree replacement – this is now complete – Cretaegus Prunifolia has been planted. Clerk to chase Johnnie Johnson for an invoice for the tree.

**Clerk**

Cllr Cox has written to David Hill of BDBC to inform him, but David has now left BDBC. His assistant has replied. They are happy with the tree. They will appoint a replacement for David soon.

e) Parish Lengthsman – the Clerk updated the Council.

Cllr Cox has queried whether the agreement covers how the work is to be allocated – he would not wish Ashmansworth's allocation of time to be in

one block. The Clerk believes that this is covered by clause 1.1 – ‘the Lead Parish and the Associate will agree a schedule of dates when the Lengthsman will work at the parish of the Associate’. It has been agreed between the associate parishes that work will be agreed on a month by month basis, and that it will be charged on a quarter hourly basis.

The liability in the event of any problems was queried. The Clerk has confirmed with St Mary Bourne Parish Council that the liability will rest with the Lengthsman, and not the Associate Councils.

The agreement with St Mary Bourne PC is still to be signed. It was unanimously agreed that this can now be signed and returned. Clerk to action.

**Clerk**

The Clerk and Chairman are arranging to meet with the Lengthsman once Cllr Cox has returned from Barcelona. It would be helpful to have an outline of the work felt to be necessary for Ashmansworth. It was suggested that a general notice be sent out to residents asking for suggestions. Cllr Cox to action. Initial suggestions were:

**Cllr Cox**

- Ditch clearance at Crux Easton
- Maintenance of parish noticeboards
- Sign cleaning

f) Parish Co-operation – East Woodhay have a new Clerk, Sadie Owen, who takes over from Caroline Cole. Clerk to contact Sadie once she has settled in.

**Clerk**

g) HCC Review of Local Bus Services – HCC are carrying out a county wide review of subsidised public transport services with a view to cutting some services. This will include the current Ashmansworth bus service. Responses are due by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

It was agreed that this is a valuable service for those that use it, and the PC would be sorry to see it go. It was also agreed that residents should be made aware of the consultation.

- Clerk to add information to website
- Cllr Cox to add to village newsletter and noticeboards.
- Clerk to put a simple notice together for noticeboards.
- Clerk to write to Tom Thacker and John Izett noting the Council's concern at the possibility of cuts.

**Clerk**  
**Cllr Cox**  
**Clerk**  
**Clerk**

8. **BDAPTC/HALC** – Cllr Cox was unable to attend the recent BDAPTC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March, and so far there has been no feedback or minutes from the Chairman. Cllr Cox noted the PC's disappointment that BDAPTC does not appear to be working very well at the moment.

## 9. **Financial Matters**

a) Clerk's Annual Performance and Salary Review – Cllr Cox reported that the Clerk's annual review has now been carried out. He gave a brief outline of what was covered, and proposed that the Clerk be awarded an incremental salary increase to SCP 21, to be backdated to October 2013. This was seconded by Cllr Bays and unanimously agreed.

b) Grant Request – Ashmansworth Village Hall – Cllr Cox and Cllr Black declared an interest as they are both members of the Village Hall Committee.

Following the grant request from the Village Hall Committee at the last meeting, Cllr Bays proposed making a grant of £500 to the Village Hall under the LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976, s.19 power to equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives. This was seconded by Cllr O'Shaughnessy and unanimously agreed.

c) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement. She noted that no further payments are expected by the financial year end,

although a VAT repayment for 2013/14 may be received by then. The payments were proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Bays and unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

**Clerk**

**10. Date of next meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM and Annual Parish meeting is to be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Cllr Cox thanked councillors for a very productive meeting.

Appendix A

**Financial statement :** Ashmansworth Parish Council

**Meeting date :** 17/03/2014

**Balances:**

Statement No: 345 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 17/03/2014
£1,770.70	911.75

**Payments since last meeting date**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100538	SLCC	SLCC Membership	28.80
100544	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - January	92.84
100545	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - February	93.04
100547	HMRC	Tax/NICs - Oct-Dec	69.60
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>284.28</b>

**New Items for payment**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100549	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - March	113.26
100550	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Travel Expenses Oct-Mar	93.51
100551	HMRC	Tax/NICs	75.00
100552	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Grant towards upkeep	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>781.77</b>

**Receipts since last meeting date :**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>

**Payments not yet presented**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100546	M V Sarson	Newsletter Stationery	57.18
100548	Royal British Legion	Donation in lieu of Poppy Wreath	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>77.18</b>